



Aboriginal Health Research News

Message from Dr. Malcolm King, IAPH Scientific Director



SD Renewal

It is my great pleasure to let you know that my appointment as Scientific Director of the Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health has been renewed by CIHR for another three years. With this renewal, I

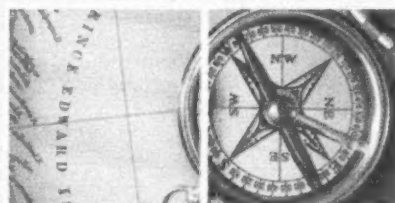
will be able to help IAPH implement the strategic directions of our new Strategic Plan and continue to foster the advancement of a national health research agenda to improve and promote the health of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada.

IAB Meetings

On November 27 and 28, the IAPH Institute Advisory Board (IAB) held its Fall meeting in Montreal. This was the first board meeting for new board members Dr. Heather Castleden and Dr. Josée Lavoie, and the first meeting at which Simon Brascoupe chaired as the new board Chair. On the first day of the meeting, IAPH invited the Scientific Directors (SDs) or their designates from the other CIHR institutes to present information on their interests and activities in Aboriginal health research. Following the institute presentations, SDs, board members and IAPH staff broke out into small group discussions to explore what the other institutes can also do to impact the health of Aboriginal peoples through collaboration and knowledge translation. After convening to share findings from each of the small groups, a large plenary discussion was held to determine what IAPH can do to assist each institute in developing its own strategic initiatives to address the CIHR Roadmap priority to reduce health inequities specifically related to

Aboriginal Peoples. The IAPH advisory board met on the second day to brainstorm IAPH's strategic goals and further work on developing an action plan for capacity development and mentorship.

Strategic Plan



After consultations with CIHR Science Council and the IAPH IAB, we are finalizing our Strategic Plan for the next five years and we look forward to publishing and operationalizing it in 2014.

The new plan reflects sentiments we have been hearing from Aboriginal communities and health researchers alike: Aboriginal health research should be based on concepts of strength and wellness rather than illness, and should better incorporate or follow Aboriginal Ways of Knowing and knowledge. Referencing the Strategic Plan, the strategic directions of IAPH speak to Aboriginal peoples and communities driving Aboriginal health research beyond the notion of health equity and towards achieving wellness, strength and resilience.

Best holiday wishes from all of us, here at IAPH – enjoy the season and the time with family and friends.

Malcolm King, PhD

Indigenous or Aboriginal?

In consideration of IAPH's international collaborations and partnerships, and the preference of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples in Canada to not use the term "Aboriginal", IAPH is poised to replace its use of the word "Aboriginal" with the more uniting and less colonizing term "Indigenous". "Aboriginal" is often cited as a construct of the Canadian Constitution of 1982, whereby section 35 acknowledges Aboriginal rights and further describes "Aboriginal Peoples of Canada" as including the Indian (First Nations), Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada. For many, the use of the term "Aboriginal" is inherently tied to colonialism and is another example of colonial imposition on Indigenous identities, rendering their perception of its use as

negative and diminishing. Alternately, as a term, "Indigenous" denotes a collective history among Indigenous Peoples of the world regardless of borders, is broader than the Constitutional and legal definitions, is consistently and purposefully used in this context in international Indigenous rights movements, and can better speak to the tenets of health research that IAPH espouses.

Since IAPH regularly engages with international collaborators, and supports the work of Indigenous researchers from Canada in international health research environments, we think it is more suitable to use the term in our work.

cont'd on page 2...



Indigenous or Aboriginal - cont'd

A third dimension to the use of "Indigenous" relates to many peoples' beliefs that their cultures, histories, and responsibilities are tied to their lands. As the Oxford dictionary defines "Indigenous" as "originating or occurring naturally in a particular place", and uses examples of both humans and plants, we can attribute the term to also encompass those relationships Indigenous Peoples have with their traditional territories.

We realize that some people will have different opinions on the use of the term Indigenous versus Aboriginal, and we invite you to [send us your feedback](#) and insight on the use of these terms.

**IAB Advisory Board Meeting and Joint CIHR Institute Meeting****Montreal, Quebec**

One of IAPH's top priorities is to enhance the Aboriginal health research agenda by fostering greater collaboration with other CIHR Institutes and other organizations. Greater partnership between CIHR's 12 other Institutes and IAPH can significantly impact future efforts to improve the health and wellness of Aboriginal peoples. To this end, we would like to thank the representatives of the 12 other Institutes for taking a day out of their busy schedules to brainstorm ideas with the IAPH IAB on how we can better incorporate Aboriginal Knowledge and Ways of Knowing in CIHR funded research, on how we can foster strength-based research, and also how to strengthen Aboriginal researchers' capacity. IAPH thanks all the Institutes and looks forward to collaborating with you in the future.



Funding Opportunities

New Launches this month!**Operating Grant: Winter 2014 Priority Announcements**

Application Deadline: March 3, 2014

- [Aboriginal Ways of Knowing and Two-Eyed Seeing \(Bridge Funding\)](#)
- [IAPH Start-up Funds: Early Careers \(Bridge Funding\)](#)

Planning and Dissemination Grants (Winter 2014 Competition)

Application Deadline: February 17, 2014

Institute Community Support: Travel Awards

Application Deadline: January 27th, 2014

Allowable travel period: April 17th to October 31st, 2014

Call for Expressions of Interest: Pathways Implementation Research Teams

[Pathways to Health Equity for Aboriginal Peoples \(Pathways\)](#) is a CIHR Signature Initiative with an overall goal to develop a better understanding of how to design, implement and scale up population health interventions that will improve Aboriginal health in **four exemplars – Suicide, Diabetes/Obesity, Tuberculosis, and Oral Health.**

The **objectives** of the EOI phase are to:

- Inform subsequent launch timelines for the full applications per exemplar
- Aid in the establishment of potential partnerships for full competitions within each exemplar
- Assist in informing CIHR and partners on community readiness across the exemplars

CIHR will be launching separate Funding Opportunities for the full competitions of IRTs in each exemplar area. The EOI application is a brief description of the intended plans of the applications, and will not be peer reviewed.

More details about the funding opportunity can be found on the [CIHR website](#).

IMPORTANT DATES

1) Application Process Webinar – January 7, 2014 at 12pm EST

- [Register for the Webinar](#) by January 6, 2014

2) Deadline for submission of EOIs – January 10th, 2014

For questions about this funding opportunity, please contact [Paul Belanger](#).

Café Scientifique: Aboriginal Ways of Knowing, Mental Wellness and Resilience

*Native Friendship Centre of Montreal
November 26th, 2013*

For many years, Indigenous peoples around the world were discouraged from practicing their traditional ways of living. On a daily basis, they were chastised for singing sacred songs, taking traditional medicines, and for following the teachings of their Elders. One day, not that long ago, like-minded Indigenous people came together and challenged the status quo. Because of the Elders' courage, people like Dr. Stéphane Dandeneau, a young Métis man from the Red River Valley in Manitoba and a researcher at the Université du Québec à Montréal, is now studying the "Roots of Resilience" as a means of understanding "what heals us, makes us well, and will help our children be well." Because of this emerging trend, even non-Indigenous researchers like Dr. Eduardo Chachamovich from McGill University are now questioning the validity of only using Western tools and indicators in the context of Indigenous peoples' health. Now, Aboriginal peoples across Canada are demanding more relevant research. This Café Scientifique

on Aboriginal Ways of Knowing, Mental Wellness and Resilience was the first of its kind for IAPH, and we wish to thank Stéphane and

Eduardo for sharing their vision on how Aboriginal Ways of Knowing can improve our approach to health research. We are pleased to let you know that this Café is a sign of how IAPH plans to move beyond health equity and aim for wellness, strength and resilience for all Aboriginal peoples.



From left: Simon Beasoupe, Dr. Eduardo Chachamovich, Stéphane Dandeneau and Malcolm King

Project Profile

Strengthening Health Literacy Among Indigenous People Living with Cardiovascular Disease, Their Families and Health Care Providers - Janet Smylie, St. Michael's Hospital (Toronto)

Indigenous health researchers from New Zealand, Australia and Canada are collaborating with Indigenous health service providers in the development of a health literacy program for Indigenous client participants and their families. Five health provider sites in Australia, Canada, and NZ have participated with approximately 40 client participants and families at each site.

The *Strengthening Health Literacy Among Indigenous People Living with Cardiovascular Disease, Their Families and Health Care Providers* study, headed by Dr. Janet Smylie, Research

Scientist at the Centre for Research on Inner City Health (CRICH) at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, was undertaken to develop a culturally appropriate intervention targeting Indigenous people and their families living with cardiovascular disease (CVD), to increase their confidence and ability to self-manage CVD and empower interactions with health workers. The project was led by De dwa da dehs ney's Aboriginal Health Access Centre (AHAC - Hamilton and Brantford sites) in partnership with the Centre for Research on Inner City Health at St. Michael's Hospital.

The study used a community-based participatory research approach. This approach emphasizes shared decision-making and Aboriginal community data governance and management. Community ownership and control of the information collected was protected by a research and data management agreement.

The study has completed phase 1, and phase 2 is nearly completed. Phase 1 involved the research team interviewing 25 AHAC CVD clients and families and conducting 6 staff interviews, assessing baseline level

of health literacy among client participants and conducting an environmental literacy assessment at both sites. The Canadian research and community research team traveled to New Zealand in March 2011 to present phase 1 findings and to work collaboratively with New Zealand and Australian research teams to develop the framework of a culturally appropriate health literacy intervention with the information that was collected.

The Canadian research team hosted an international team meeting in Hamilton, in November 2012, to finalize the development of an interactive tablet application, CVD client workbook and service provider training materials. The research team worked in partnership with AHAC service staff and leadership to customize the intervention and training materials to reflect local Aboriginal culture and processes. The final tablet application and specially designed CVD client workbook was presented back to health service staff, which was positively received.

Phase 2 of the study involves the delivery and evaluation of the intervention with AHAC CVD clients. To date, 52 AHAC CVD clients have been enrolled and completed the intervention sessions. The specially written and designed CVD client workbook and interactive tablet application were used during structured educational sessions. Each client participated in three educational sessions with a front line Aboriginal nurse trained in adult literacy. It is anticipated that an additional 21 clients will be enrolled into the intervention.

The final phase of the study will be comprised of analysing, documenting and sharing the study results. A final international team meeting will occur in Australia where the teams will share the results of the study. An AHAC community dissemination and celebration gathering will also be conducted to officially conclude the study.



2014 CAHSR Conference

Abstract submission deadline: January 9, 2014

May 13 to 15, 2014 (Pre-Conference Day May 12, 2014)

Hilton Toronto

"Convergence of Health Policy and Evidence – Bridge Over Troubled Water"

CAHSR's annual conference is Canada's largest gathering of health care policy makers, managers, researchers, students and stakeholders. Held at a different location every year, it is attended by 600+ delegates annually. Don't miss out on the chance to feature your work.

There will be selected opportunities in the abstract competition for oral presentations by researcher and decision maker pairs given this year's theme of "Convergence of Policy and Evidence."

There will also be selected opportunities in the abstract competition for oral presentations by researcher and Aboriginal partners given our desire to encourage health services and policy research relevant for Aboriginal groups.

Researcher/decision maker/Aboriginal partners are encouraged to co-present posters, where applicable.

CIHR Website update - Reforms of Open Programs

CIHR is pleased to inform you that the [CIHR Reforms website](#) has been revised to provide improved navigation and additional information on CIHR's changes to the Open Programs and peer review process. We invite you to take a look at the new content to find the latest information on:

- The two new funding schemes: the Foundation Scheme and the Project Scheme;
- The new peer review process;
- The College of Reviewers;
- The transition plan; and
- Pilot competitions.

In addition, [questions and answers](#) are available to respond to the most common inquiries about the design, transition and pilots. Feel free to share these useful resources with your colleagues and partners.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the [Project Management Office](#).

CIHR Institute of Gender and Health launches major funding initiative in boys' and men's health

Deadline for the Letter of Intent phase: February 12, 2014

In response to the urgent need for increased attention and research capacity in the area of boys' and men's health, IGH and its partners are launching the [Team Grant: Advancing Boys' and Men's Health Research](#). This unique funding opportunity will support interdisciplinary and intersectoral teams of health researchers and knowledge users who are committed to the pursuit of a solutions-focused, collaborative approach to improving boys' and men's health. With a total investment of \$9,000,000 over 5 years, the Team Grant will generate new knowledge, build research capacity, and foster the ethical translation of knowledge in five key research areas specific to boys' and men's health, including aging and seniors, Aboriginal health, HIV prevention and care, family violence, and healthy lifestyles and health promotion.

CIHR Annual Report 2012-2013

CIHR is pleased to inform you that the *CIHR Annual Report 2012-13: Innovative, Strategic, Current* is now available on the CIHR website. The report was officially tabled on October 16 in the House of Commons by the Minister of Health. This year, we made important progress on top CIHR priorities such as the Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research and reforms to the Open Operating Grant Program and peer review process. The report highlights how our recent successes have helped position CIHR to meet the objectives set out in Health Research Roadmap. It also shines a spotlight on the work of CIHR-funded researchers across the country who are helping to build a healthier future for Canadians. We encourage you to read the report ([PDF](#) | [HTML](#)), and to share it with your friends and contacts. Please note that internal and external distribution will occur within the next two weeks. For additional copies, please email [Caroline Kay](#).



CONTACT US

[Malcolm King, PhD, FCCP](#)
Scientific Director

[Paul Bélanger, BScN](#)
Assistant Director

[Nicole Manson](#)
Finance & HR Manager

[Jacques Dalton](#)
Associate, Strategic Initiatives

[Jeff LaPlante](#)
Institute Project Officer

[Mélanie Bergeron](#)
Project Officer

The Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health fosters the advancement of a national health research agenda to improve and promote the health of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada, through research, knowledge translation and capacity building. The Institute's pursuit of research excellence is enhanced by respect for community research priorities and Indigenous knowledge, values and cultures.

[CIHR-IAPH Website](#)